



*St. Catherine's.*

XXIV.

THE CATHERINE PLUM.

This Plum is mentioned by many of the old writers, particularly by DU HAMEL, in terms of commendation; and, notwithstanding the age of the variety, the trees are still sufficiently vigorous and fertile to merit a place in every fruit garden.

The young shoots are strong, their bark dark brown, minutely spotted with yellow. Buds pointed. Leaves long, narrow, being sometimes four and a half inches in length and two and a half in breadth, pointed at both ends, pale green, smooth, bluntly serrated; petiole about an inch long, thickened at the base, where it is tinted with deep red. Fruit of a middle size, oblong, narrowed near the stalk, broad and flattened at the other end, slightly furrowed or cleft. The skin is of a pale greenish or rather cinereous yellow, intermixed with bright gold colour, covered with a fine meal; beautifully spotted with red when fully ripe. Footstalk usually an inch or more in length, inserted in a small cavity. Flesh yellow, tender, sweet, and of fine flavour. Stone oval, flat, sometimes adhering to the flesh; but when the fruit has been well ripened it separates from it.

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